

COUNCIL BRIEFS

August 14, 2015

New Phone System at WHPD: On Tuesday, August 18, the West Hartford Police Department will have new phone numbers for all of its divisions and personnel. The emergency 911 service and the routine police number, 860-523-5203, will NOT be affected. This new VoIP system completes the long range strategic plan to bring all municipal, public libraries and schools onto this new platform. VoIP offers more functionality than the present system that is 19 years old.

During this transition, all of the old phone numbers will automatically forward to the routine number and be answered by the Emergency Reporting Center. A complete list of the new phone numbers will be posted on the town's website under "Contact Us" on Aug. 18.

Shining Solutions raises \$1535 for the Town That Cares: The Clean Energy Task Force sold 1,228 LED light bulbs (307 four-packs at \$10 each) during the month of June with 50% of proceeds benefiting the Town That Cares. A check for \$1,535 and a \$100 Amazon gift card will be presented at the August 18 Town Council meeting. The gift card will help the town buy school supplies and backpacks for students in need.

Over their lifetime, the LED light bulbs will save more than 1.5 million kWh, \$200,000 in electricity costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1,058 metric tons, or the equivalent of 223 passenger vehicles for a year! Shining Solutions is sponsored by Energize CT, a statewide-program administered by Eversource and United Illuminating.

U Drive. U Text. U Pay: The West Hartford Police Department joined forces this month with the Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office for its second campaign against distracted driving. "U Drive. U Text. U Pay" includes special patrols specifically targeting distracted drivers and enforcing distracted driving laws. This campaign runs

from August 3 through August 16. The majority of the cost is funded through a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration grant.

Fines for violations begin at \$150 for a first offense, increase to \$300 for a second offense, and are \$500 for subsequent violations.

100th Anniversary of the Prospect Avenue Fire House: West Hartford's most historical fire station will open its doors to the public for an open house on Saturday, Aug. 15, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of operation and service at its 561 Prospect Ave. location. Most of the building's original features dating back to 1915 remain in place today, including all of the original woodwork, the brass fire pole, and swinging fire doors.

A restored 1915 American LaFrance fire truck similar to the first fire truck assigned to the Prospect Avenue station will be on display, courtesy of the Prospect, CT Volunteer Fire Department. The open house will kick-off with a brief ceremony at 10 AM, and then visitors can take a self-guided tour of the historic building. The open house is family-friendly.

Fernridge Pool stays open an extra week: The Department of Human & Leisure Services announced that it will keep the pool at Fernridge Park open for one additional week after Kennedy and Eisenhower Park pools will close on August 16. Fernridge Park will remain open for recreational swim from Monday, August 17 through Friday, August 21, 1:00-5:00 PM.

The spray decks at Fernridge, Wolcott and Kennedy parks will remain open through Labor Day, September 7, 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

The cost for entry will be the same as a typical weekday daily swim. Punch cards and season passes will be accepted. Adult lap swims will not be scheduled for these days.

Ronald F. Van Winkle
Town Manager